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The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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French Prepare for National Elections

Voters to Determine in Vote Next Sunday Nature of Their Future Government

MANY DEEP-SEATED DIFFERENCES

People Seek Way to Avoid Political Instability Which Weakened Country Before War

Next Sunday, October 21, the French people will go to the polls to participate in a national election. This will be an interesting occasion for a number of reasons. Women will vote for the first time in a national election. The voters will choose a national assembly consisting of about 500 members. They will also express their will on two questions which will be submitted to them: first, shall the national assembly constitute itself as a convention to frame a new constitution for France; and second, shall the de Gaulle provisional government be continued in power until the government under the new constitution can be set up?

There has been political confusion in France since the Germans overran the country in 1940. At the time of the invasion the French were living under a constitution which was written in 1875. Then, as in 1940, France had been conquered by Germany. She had lost the Franco-Prussian War, as a result of which her government was overthrown. The constitution of 1875 established the Third Republic, so called because this was the third time in the history of the nation that a republican form of government had been set up.

Third Republic Overthrown

It was the Third Republic which the Nazis overthrew five years ago. In its place a dictatorship along fascist lines was established, at the head of which was Marshal Pétain. The Pétain government undertook to rule France, or the part of it that was not occupied by the Germans. Many Frenchmen, however, refused to recognize it. Charles de Gaulle took over the leadership of these patriots who looked forward to the day when France would be free again. He went to London and set up a provisional government for France. When, last year, the Germans were driven out of the country by American and British armies, de Gaulle returned to France and set up the provisional government in Paris. The French were promised that within a year there would be an election which would give them an opportunity to decide how they should be governed. The election was postponed for that length of time to give French prisoners held in Germany a chance to get back and take part in the voting. This promised election is the one which will be held next week.

The French must decide now whether they will go back to the government of

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PAUL PARKER PHOTO

Should Congress act to broaden the provisions of the Social Security Act?

A Thought for Troubled Times

By Walter E. Myer

In this uncertain world of ours, there is a great deal of unhappiness over which the individual, when acting alone, has no control. During the years of war, death, fear, grief, and anxiety have visited millions of homes. Not long ago powerful economic forces, beyond their reach or understanding, closed the doors of hope against men and women in every community, and the same thing may happen again unless wise social action is taken to avert that calamity. Sickness steals at times upon every family; accidents strike without warning, and death at last is the common lot of all.

But though these major and sometimes inevitable calamities are grim enough, I doubt whether they are the chief obstacles to the living of lives full of peace and contentment. They strike at times with devastating force, but they come only occasionally into our lives. Most of us do not live, day after day, in the presence of overwhelming tragedy. We do live, however, too much of the time, in the presence of avoidable destroyers of happiness; of personal pettiness, of quarrels or misunderstandings, of irritations, unfriendliness or selfishness. These are the ugly forms that stalk our footsteps day by day, depriving life of much of the beauty and contentment that should be its lot. These are the foes that get us down. Day in and day out they wear away upon our nerves. They dull the fine edges of pleasure and achievement and render intolerable the hours of failure or gloom. Most of our misfortunes could be lightly borne if we were sustained at all times by unflinching loyalty, while long-awaited success crumbles to dust in our hands if it is accompanied by jealousy and self-seeking.

There is one here and there who rises above the sordidness which characterizes so much of life, but most people have not learned well how to live with others. Perhaps they have not learned to control their irritability, any more than does the animal which snaps at all who approach it. It may be egotism, which leads one to think only of himself and prevents him from seeing things through the eyes of his neighbor. In some cases it is bad temper. In others it is sheer childishness. An ever-present sense of sympathy, a disposition to understand others, a firm resolution always to be considerate, a rising above childish irritations, a mastery of temper, an unflinching spirit of loyalty and friendliness—these, if universally achieved, would prevent most human ills and would make inevitable burdens easier to bear.

Truman Asks Action On Jobless Benefits

Urges Congress to Approve Bill to Boost Unemployment Pay to War Plant Workers

SECURITY ACT CHANGES COMING UP

Wagner-Murray-Dingell Measure Is Designed to Extend Coverage and Broaden Benefits

Although the Senate has rejected the proposal, contained in the Kilgore bill, to provide maximum benefits of \$25 a week for 26 weeks to unemployed war workers, President Truman has insisted that he will continue to exert his influence to insure passage of the measure. Following the defeat in the Senate, he called key members of the House Ways and Means Committee to the White House to urge adoption of the proposal.

The Kilgore bill is an emergency measure—designed to give assistance to war workers during the transition period from wartime to peacetime production. There is the permanent problem of amending the Social Security Act, which has been in effect for 10 years, and Congress must deal with this problem sooner or later. Whether or not the House favors the \$25 for 26 weeks proposal and the Senate falls in line, both houses will consider measures designed to make our social security program more comprehensive than it is at present.

Broadening Social Security

For a number of years, the effort has been under way to secure amendment to the Social Security Act. Bill after bill has been introduced in both houses, only to be "buried" in the committee to which it has been referred. But sponsors of such legislation are determined that the social security program shall be amended so as more adequately to meet the hazards of unemployment, old age, dependency, and other social evils over which individuals have no control.

One of the leaders of this movement is Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, who, in season and out, has been crying for legislation to perfect the social security program. With Senator James E. Murray of Montana, and Congressman John D. Dingell of Michigan, he is author of the leading measure now before Congress. The major provisions of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, known as "Social Security Act Amendments of 1945," are outlined on page 2 of this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

Ten years have now passed since Congress approved the national Social Security Act. Opposition to the original measure was quite as vociferous as is that encountered by proposals to extend the benefits of social security today. Never before had the federal government assumed responsibility for providing means by which its citizens,

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Broadening Social Security Program

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would be protected from the effects of old age, involuntary unemployment, and other hazards such as illness, disability, and death of the family wage-earner.

The present system of social security is designed to take care of those in need of assistance in two ways. One is through a system of social insurance, which repays the worker on the basis of wages lost because of the misfortune which overtook him. The amount of his benefits is determined by his previous wages and the length of time he has been covered by unemployment or old-age insurance. The other is a program of public assistance, under which the individual or his family receives aid according to his need.

When we speak of social security, most people think of the federal program for old-age and survivor's insurance. The one per cent tax on earnings up to \$3,000 a year which is taken from the paychecks of all workers who are covered is combined with an equal amount contributed by their employers to form a fund from which payments are made each month to workers and their families when the wage-earner reaches 65 and stops work, or to the family in case of his death. The size of the monthly benefits depends upon the amount of wages upon which taxes have been paid and upon the number of years the worker has been covered. The maximum is \$85 a month. While this is the most comprehensive security program, covering about three-fifths of the jobs in

the country, it is only a part of the whole social security picture.

Unemployment insurance, the system which many of our leaders feel will prove inadequate during the coming months of dislocation because of industrial reconversion, is supposed to provide regular weekly payments, (usually between \$5 and \$20) to insured wage earners out of work. The conditions under which these unemployment insurance payments are made vary from state to state, for the federal government neither collects the taxes from which the funds come nor does it administer the law. The funds are collected by the state from each employer covered by that state's law. Each employer must contribute a certain amount for each worker, usually about 2.7 per cent of the worker's earnings.

The legislation which was finally passed by the Senate last month was in the nature of an attempt to make some provision for the unemployed who already number 3,000,000. Although it omitted the \$25 maximum benefit provision of the original Kilgore bill, it extended jobless pay everywhere to 26 weeks and brought federal and maritime workers under the existing state unemployment systems, besides providing for travel allowances of \$200 to workers who needed help in getting to a new job or in returning home. Despite the fact that this legislation has not yet been acted upon by the House Ways and Means Committee, labor organizations, particularly the CIO, have announced their

intention to press for passage of the original measure approved by President Truman.

The greatest opposition to this proposed action comes from representatives of some southern states and from Republicans. The objections raised are that payment of what they feel is an inordinately high weekly compensation would put a premium on idleness and would disrupt the entire economy of areas where wages are traditionally low.

Those who favor the legislation argue that such payments will not put a premium on idleness because no compensation would be allowed a worker if he refused to take suitable work when it was available. They argue that few workers, comparatively, will be allowed the maximum compensation, and that workers who had worked in war industries during the national crisis deserve aid from the nation when they were thrown out of work by the war's end.

These are features which are extremely controversial and the solution of which would affect our entire economic system. There is little argument, however, about certain other features of the social security system which function so effectively and for the most part so quietly that many people do not know of their existence or do not recognize them as partly supported by federal funds.

In almost every community today public assistance is being given to the needy aged, the needy blind, and to dependent children. These are pro-

grams administered by the states but supported partially by federal funds provided in amounts equal to the state's contribution, up to \$20 a month per person assisted.

The health and welfare services provided for under the federal Social Security Act are joint federal-state programs. The Social Security Board certifies them to the Treasury for payment of federal grants if the state's plan and its administration comes up to the standard set by the Social Security Act. The child welfare services, services for crippled children, and maternal and child-health services are aimed at extending and improving services for promoting the health of mothers and children, especially in rural areas and in areas suffering from economic distress. Care, treatment, and hospitalization are provided for crippled children.

A fourth program provides money for helping the states and counties expand their health services, while some money goes directly to the Public Health Service for the study of diseases and health hazards which are present all over the United States. Great strides have been made in the study of the causes of cancer, for example, under this program.

On the basis of its experience with the administration of the present act, the Social Security Board has made certain recommendations to Congress for the strengthening of the social security program. The first of these suggestions is that social insurance be extended to protect all gainfully employed persons, including agricultural and domestic workers, employees of nonprofit organizations, persons who are self-employed, and those who work for certain government agencies, all of whom are now excluded from the system.

Another recommendation is that workers be insured against the other causes of involuntary wage loss, such as sickness and various forms of disability. The cost of medical care, one of the major causes of family need, should also be provided for by social insurance, the Board feels.

The more extensive of the bills introduced into the Senate is the 1945 version of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, already referred to. Although most authorities consider it a blueprint showing what lines our social security structure should follow, rather than a formula which will be acceptable in the near future, it deserves the study of anyone interested in the general welfare of the people of the United States.

The bill itself covers 185 pages so that it is impossible here to go into detail as to its provisions. The emphasis, however, is on extension of coverage, a unified social insurance system, insurance for medical care and hospitalization costs, temporary and extended disability insurance, and increased contributions amounting to four per cent each on employers and employees to cover the cost of the additional benefits.

The authors of the bill are particularly interested in improving health services throughout the United States. To this end, the bill provides for a ten-year program of federal grants and loans for the construction and expansion of federal hospitals and health centers.

Outline of Major Provisions of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill

(The following brief summary of the proposed amendments to the Social Security Act is reprinted by courtesy of Survey-Graphic.)

Grants and Loans for Construction of Health Facilities. Provides for a ten-year program of federal grants and loans for construction and expansion of hospitals, health centers, and related facilities, to be financed out of general revenues. The federal government will pay at least 25 per cent of the cost of a project and up to 50 per cent in accordance with a state's per capita income. Loans may not exceed an additional 25 per cent of the cost of the project.

Grants to States for Public Health Services. Provides federal grants to states from general revenues for expansion of public health services. The federal government will pay at least 25 per cent of the amounts expended by a state and up to 75 per cent in accordance with a state's per capita income.

Grants to States for Maternal and Child Health and Welfare Services. Provides federal grants to states from general revenues for maternal and child health and welfare services. The federal government will pay at least 25 per cent of amounts expended by a state and up to 75 per cent in accordance with a state's per capita income.

Comprehensive Public Assistance Program. Provides for federal grants to the states for public assistance to needy individuals—aged, blind, dependent children, or others. Federal government will pay at least 50 per cent of amounts spent by states and

up to 75 per cent for states in accordance with a state's per capita income.

A National System of Public Employment Offices. Provides for the development of an integrated, national network of public employment offices by the continuation of the federal operation of the U. S. Employment Services. Prior to January 1, 1942, the U. S. Employment Services consisted of 48 separate state employment services financed by federal grants to the states.

National Social Insurance System. The development of a single, integrated national social insurance administration under the Social Security Board to administer health insurance, unemployment insurance, temporary disability insurance, and retirement, survivors, and extended disability insurance.

Prepaid Personal Health Service Insurance. Provides for insurance of medical care and hospitalization costs.

Unemployment and Temporary Disability Insurance. The existing federal-state system of unemployment compensation is federalized. Benefits for unemployed or temporarily disabled workers of \$5 to \$30 per week up to 26 weeks provided. These amounts related to number of worker's dependents as well as average wage. If funds are adequate, benefits may be paid for as long as 52 weeks for unemployment.

Retirement, Survivors, and Total Disability Insurance. Provides for more nearly adequate benefits than existing law, especially to workers with average monthly wages of less

than \$150. Lowers retirement age for women to 60; retirement age for men remains 65. Increases minimum benefit from \$10 a month to \$20; increases maximum monthly benefit from \$85 to \$120. The total benefits paid to the family of any beneficiary may not exceed 80 per cent of his previous monthly wage.

National Social Insurance Trust Fund. All social insurance contributions from employers and employees are automatically appropriated to this Trust Fund and invested in U. S. Government Bonds.

Credit for Military Service. \$160 wages credited under the insurance system to the account of each man or woman in the armed forces for each month of their military service. This preserves the insurance rights of workers who "covered employment" to enter the armed forces and gives immediate protection to younger workers who would have gone to work and become insured if they had not entered the armed forces.

Coverage Provisions and Definitions. Extends coverage to about 15,000,000 agricultural workers, domestic servants, seamen, employees of nonprofit institutions, and self-employed persons. Does not cover government workers, except as state and local employees may vote to be covered under voluntary compacts.

Social Insurance Contributions. Four per cent each on employers and employees. Government contribution authorized when necessary.

General Provisions. Judicial review, national advisory council and rehabilitation of disabled persons.

Suggested Study Guide for Students

DOES it pay you as an individual to express your opinions on public problems? Does it pay you to write to your newspaper editors, congressmen, and other public leaders? In short, do these leaders pay any attention to what ordinary citizens may think about a particular problem or issue?

There have been two recent examples which prove that they do. The first one involved our occupation policies in Japan. Reports came from American newspapermen in that country to the effect that the Japanese were being treated with "kid gloves." About that time, one of our leading occu-

ing very few duties in that country.

Although General Patton announced that he felt he had carried out the directions given him by General Eisenhower, it was evident that the opinion of many people in this country was sufficiently different to justify the action of Patton's superior officer.

Other illustrations of this kind could be given. For instance, the Army and Navy have greatly speeded their demobilization program as a result of widespread criticism of their previous slowness in discharging servicemen.

Thus, public opinion, which each of us helps to shape every time he expresses his views, is a powerful force. Whether or not it is well directed depends upon the willingness of millions of individuals like yourself to become well-informed and active citizens.

Social Security

In considering the question of social security, there are two angles to emphasize. The first deals with the immediate problem of unemployment compensation to war workers who have lost their jobs. Should President Truman's recommendation of \$25 a week for 26 weeks as the maximum payment be adopted by Congress? The other deals with the long-range problem of amending the Social Security Act. Here are some questions which have a bearing upon both aspects of the problem:

1. What is the maximum unemployment benefit allowed in your state under the existing law?
2. What is the average weekly wage of industrial workers in your community?
3. Do you think compensation of \$25 a week for unemployed war workers would encourage idleness?
4. What is the difference between the insurance features of the present Social Security Act and those which are classified as public assistance? Give examples of each.
5. In what ways would the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill modify the present Social Security Act?
6. How would the Wagner-Murray-Dingell measure be financed?
7. What types of workers are not now covered by the Social Security Act?



Newspapers play a mighty role in molding public opinion and in shaping national policies



Congressmen are flooded with letters and telegrams when the public demands action upon policies or legislation. Here are some of the telegrams being delivered to members of Congress.

8. Is there any plan of group health insurance in effect in your community, either private or public?

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"Ten Years of Social Security," by Arthur J. Altmeyer. *Survey Graphic*, September, 1945. The chairman of the Social Security Board gives a full statement of the aims of social security, our experience under the present system, and what he considers the principal needs to be met in the future.

"Unemployment Is Doubled." *Business Week*, August 25, 1945. Report on the immediate unemployment caused throughout industry by the end of the war.

"Health Insurance in Politics," by Michael M. Davis. *The New Republic*, July 30, 1945. The health insurance provisions of the 1945 Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill are explained briefly in an article condemning the aims and methods of the American Medical Association's National Physicians' Committee in opposing the proposed legislation.

"Services of the Federal Security Agency." *Education for Victory*, June 20, 1945. A concise statement of the

present social security system and the duties of the Social Security Board.

"The Story of Social Security," by Stuart Chase and Jerome Beatty. *Reader's Digest*, April 1944. A simply written, comprehensive explanation of our present social security system by two well known journalists.

"The Challenge of the Modern Crusade," by Marcus Nadler. *Nation's Business*, April, 1945. Suggestions for cooperation by business, labor, and government to satisfy the present-day demand for economic security.

"Insurance Companies Look at Social Security," by Harvey Lebrun. *The Commonwealth*, March 2, 1945. A review of a recent book on social security, *Freedom From Fear—the Interrelation of Domestic and International Programs*, by Louis H. Pink. Harper, \$2.50.

France

1. Name three reasons why the coming election in France is of unusual importance.
2. What is meant by the Third Republic, and when was it established?
3. How does the Chamber of Deputies fit into the present French governmental set-up?
4. Which is the more important, the president or premier of France?
5. What are two of the main weaknesses of the present political system in France?
6. Briefly describe the conflict between the "right" and "left" parties in France.
7. Briefly describe the plight of the French people as they face the winter season just ahead.
8. How does the lack of coal affect the situation in France?

References

We recommend the following magazine articles on France and her problems:

"New Economy for France," by H. S. Block, *Current History*, pp. 98-108, August.

"In What Direction Will France Go?" by D. W. Brogan, *New York Times Magazine*, p. 12, August 26.

"Frenchman Comes Home," by E. O. Hauser, *Saturday Evening Post*, p. 9, August 18.

"France Pays the Bill," by M. Stirling, *Atlantic*, pp. 52-3, August.



Gen. George S. Patton

pation generals (not MacArthur) expressed the belief that American forces might leave Japan within a year.

People in this country became agitated over these reports and statements. A great many of them wrote to their newspaper editors and congressmen. The wheels of public opinion went swiftly into motion. Government and military officials, in response to this upsurge of resentment, reassured the American people that Japan's future ability to make war would be crushed. It was not long before harsher policies and decrees were announced by General MacArthur. There is little doubt that he had already intended to adopt these measures, but the point is that public opinion, rightly or wrongly, hastened his actions and ended all talk by other occupation officials of a "short, easy occupation."

Another example of the power of public opinion was brought forth in the case of General Patton. In an interview, he made it clear that he was retaining some Nazis in control of industries in the occupation area under his command. He left the impression that it made little difference whether these people were kept in power and that their abilities were needed to run German industry.

Again there was a storm of protest raised in this country. Members of Congress received a great many letters from indignant relatives of soldiers who had fought to wipe out the Nazi menace. American newspapers, spurred by their aroused readers, vigorously attacked General Patton's attitude on this question. Shortly thereafter, as we know, General Eisenhower relieved Patton of his command of the 3rd Army, which has an important role in the occupation of Germany, and placed him in command of the 15th Army, which is now perform-

The Story of the Week

What Next?

Now that the foreign ministers of the Big Five United Nations have left London for their respective capitals, the world is asking anxiously: what next? The first meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers could not be called a success. None of the major questions the five met to consider was settled and the conference ended on a note of disagreement.

Negotiations broke down over two big issues—the exact meaning of the Potsdam agreement as it applies to

looks as though the disputed peace treaties will not be made by the big United Nations collectively. The countries receiving the surrender of each defeated nation may draw up the final terms and submit them to the United Nations at a later peace conference. If this happens, it will mean substantially a victory for the Russian point of view on the Balkans, for France and China will be excluded from the making of treaties affecting this area.

Tax Cuts

Substantial tax relief was in sight for the American people last week as Congress prepared to dock next year's federal revenues by an estimated \$5,319,000,000. The new program drawn up by the House Ways and Means Committee will exempt more than 12,000,000 people in the lower income brackets from paying any taxes at all and will reduce the average citizen's tax bill by at least 10 per cent.

Modified personal income tax regulations account for almost half of the projected cut in federal revenue. Lightened corporation levies take care of almost two billion dollars more, and cuts in excise taxes—taxes on the manufacture, sale, or use of particular commodities, such as furs, jewelry, and electric light bulbs—account for most of the rest.

While for the most part the House bill providing for these tax reductions follows the recommendations of Secretary of the Treasury Fred M. Vinson, it deviates from them on one important point—the excess profits tax on corporations. Secretary Vinson, speaking for the Truman administration, had urged the complete repeal of the excess profits tax as an incentive to business activity in the reconversion period. Congress decided instead to reduce the tax from 95 per cent to 60 per cent. In actual money, this amounts to a 50 per cent cut for most corporations.

Strike Developments

Acting under the terms of the Smith-Connally Act, which permits federal seizure of industrial property when labor disputes menace the efficiency of the armed forces, President Truman has, temporarily at least, broken the oil strike. As this is written, 26 oil companies in 15 states are under Navy management. The dispute, which kept 35,000 oil workers from their jobs for two weeks and shut

down about a third of the nation's oil refining facilities, seems on the way to settlement.

The CIO Oil Workers Union, which sponsored the strike, has asked a 30 per cent increase in hourly pay rates. The oil companies have offered a 15 per cent raise, but, until the government took over, refused to arbitrate the strike in accordance with Labor Secretary Schwelienbach's request. Now the Navy may bring the case before the War Labor Board for final settlement.

Elsewhere, the labor picture is less bright. All over the country, new strikes have been added to those already under way. Sixty thousand New York and New Jersey stevedores have gone back to work after a four-day strike but are still pressing for a new and higher wage scale. Telephone workers up and down the nation are threatening a prolonged strike in protest against the National Labor Relations Board's treatment of their case.

More serious still, John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers are out on strike again. More than 146,000 miners in the bituminous coal fields of the Appalachian mountain area are idle as the union presses for recognition of its supervisors' organization. As a result of the walkout, the Solid Fuels Administration has asked coal dealers to ration deliveries to home consumers throughout the East.

Japan Under MacArthur

Moving briskly to reorder Japanese life according to surrender specifications, General MacArthur has laid down a series of important new edicts. From now on, all transactions in silver, gold, and foreign exchange are forbidden to the Japanese. The Japanese stock exchange is to remain closed. All major banks, except the Bank of Japan, have been closed and are to be liquidated.

MacArthur has also ordered the repeal of all Japanese laws limiting individual civil liberties, thus restoring freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and thought to the Japanese people.



RICE HARVEST. Many former Japanese soldiers are returning to civilian pursuits. Recent rice riots in Japan may indicate future difficulties for the occupying forces.

Agencies enforcing these laws are being dissolved and prisoners held for violating them are being given their freedom.

Although the Japanese have accepted these changes in their national life, there is considerable unrest in Japan. Most of it springs from the people's economic anxieties. It is a recognized fact that the winter will be one of privation, although military government authorities plan to equalize distribution of food, clothing, and medicines as far as possible. Anticipating lean months ahead, many farmers have been trying to withhold their produce instead of turning it over to the occupation authorities. In Hokkaido, northernmost of the big Japanese islands, there have been riots among rice farmers who refused to send their crops to the cities.

Controlling Atomic Power

The harnessing of atomic energy for man's use has posed a problem quite as explosive as the bomb it made possible. Who shall be permitted to develop atomic power, and for what purposes? Shall the secret, now known to American, British, and Canadian scientists alone, be shared with other nations?

At President Truman's request, Congress is now studying these fateful questions. The President himself favors the establishment of an atomic energy commission to control and promote the development of atomic power projects for peacetime purposes in the United States. Such a commission would sponsor government-owned atomic facilities and would regulate private use of atomic power.

The President hopes to negotiate agreements with Canada and Britain for international supervision of the use of atomic power. He believes that, later on, other nations should be taken into the control organization and that the United Nations Organization should exercise over-all supervision.

Thus far, most congressmen seem opposed to the idea of sharing the atomic secret with nations which do not now possess it. Their attitude is that our present monopoly of it is one of the most important sources of our

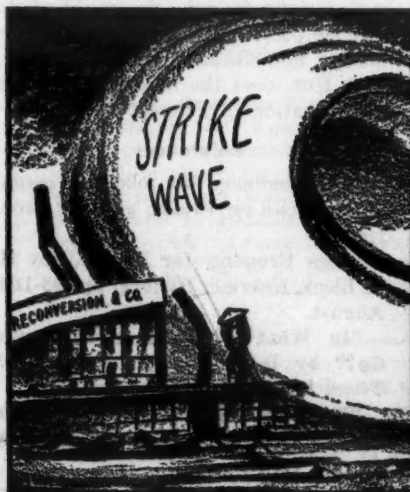


Fred M. Vinson
Has new tax plan

the Balkan settlements and the question of who shall participate in the control of defeated Japan. On the first, Russia contends that France and China should be excluded from discussions of the peace treaties with Axis satellite countries while Britain and the United States urge that they should take part in them. On the second, Russia is holding out for a four-power control commission, to sit in Tokyo. The other nations feel that an Allied consultative commission, on which Russia, Britain, and China would be represented along with the United States, would be sufficient.

What does this mean for the future of international cooperation? Since the foreign ministers of the major United Nations were unable to settle the major problems of peace-making, how will they be settled?

Foreign Ministers Byrnes, Molotov, and Bevin have all announced themselves still confident that future meetings of the Council will be more productive. But, as things stand now, it



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
The way to 60,000,000 jobs?



SHOENAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
Dig up the roots



CARRACK IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Unofficial communique from London

strength and should be held as a defensive asset as long as possible. President Truman, on the other hand, feels that the secret cannot be kept for long and that we should establish the principle of cooperative, international control immediately. If we do not, it is his opinion that dangerous rivalries will develop when foreign atomic research catches up with ours.

Although the Russians do not now possess the secret of the atom bomb, their scientists already know the main principles which govern its manufacture. Research on the atom nucleus has been going on in Russia for 15 years, and it may be assumed that before long Soviet knowledge will parallel our own.

Ravaged France

Whatever the outcome of next Sunday's election, there is a long, hard road ahead for France (see page 1). No real political stability can be expected until the ravages of war are repaired and the country is back on its feet economically.

Probably the loss of manpower is the most terrible war wound France has sustained. An estimated 120,000 soldiers and civilians were killed by military action. Some 250,000 more died in concentration camps or were executed as hostages. And more than a million Frenchmen were taken to Germany as slave laborers.

To a country with a declining population, this is a tragic loss. What makes it still more serious is the fact that even the manpower which remains has been enfeebled by the hardships of the war years. Workers are underfed—often too weak to do an

Without coal and transportation, food cannot be distributed, factories cannot get the raw materials they need, and the damaged homes and factories all over France cannot be repaired.

This situation holds dangerous possibilities for the French people and the world. Surveying France's plight, a writer in the October issue of *Fortune* comments:

"One thing is certain. If these conditions are repeated this winter, if the French see no hope, no evidence of progress in breaking through the circle of frustration, there will take place a further disintegration, both economic and moral, that will eventually lead to some kind of revolution. That such a revolution would swing the country over to a totalitarian regime there can be little doubt. The French have already socialized their most important coal mines and the aircraft industry. They will probably socialize their electric power industry, and they may go even further, if only because they can find no other solution for certain social and economic requirements typical of postwar Europe. But there is here involved a question of degree. Beneath the surface of French life, flashing forth here and there like heat lightning on an August night, there exist all the potentials of civil war."

World Unionism

With the drafting of the World Federation of Trade Unions constitution, organized labor is united on a precedent-breaking global scale. The newly constituted organization represents the major labor groups of 55 countries, including Italy and most of the Axis satellite nations, as well as the various Allied nations. The only important union federation left out is the American Federation of Labor.

Under the new constitution, however, the AFL may join if it is willing to give up its scruples about Russian membership. (The AFL has denounced the WFTU because it includes representatives of Russian trade unionism, claiming that since the Soviet state is dictatorial, its unions should not be represented in a federation of democratic labor groups.) Previously, the AFL was barred by the WFTU policy of including representatives of only one union federation from each country. Under this rule, the CIO spoke for all American labor in WFTU gatherings. Now, however, secondary union groups are to be invited into the organization.

The reorganized WFTU has committed itself to these purposes. It will support the United Nations Organization in its efforts to prevent war. It will fight fascism whenever and wherever it arises. It will press for social security and increased government protection for labor in all countries. Finally, it will promote the development of unionism in all countries and will aid countries disorganized by the war in reestablishing their unions.

Crisis in Palestine

The issue of Palestine, always a smoldering one for Britain and the world, is once more threatening to burst into flames. The Jewish Zionists, whose ultimate aim is to establish the little Middle Eastern country as a national Jewish homeland, demand



PEARL HARBOR COMMITTEE. The joint congressional committee which will investigate the Pearl Harbor disaster. Left to right: Senator Owen Brewster, Rep., Maine; Senator Alben W. Barkley, Dem., Kentucky; Rep. Jere Cooper, Dem., Pennsylvania; and Senator Walter F. George, Dem., Georgia. Back row, left to right: Rep. J. Bayard Clark, Dem., North Carolina; Senator Homer Ferguson, Rep., Michigan; Senator Scott W. Lucas, Dem., Illinois; Rep. Frank B. Keefe, Rep., Wisconsin; Rep. John W. Murphy, Dem., Pennsylvania; and Rep. Bertrand W. Gearhart, Rep., California.

that Palestine be opened up immediately to receive Europe's suffering, displaced Jews.

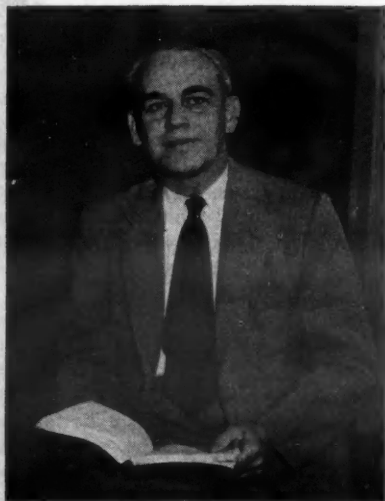
The Zionists say that the many thousands of Jews now occupying concentration camps in Europe will be brought to Palestine with or without British approval. Reports have it that a Jewish force of 80,000 men has been mobilized to prevent interference with the arrival of these refugees. However, the Zionists have pledged themselves not to start hostilities.

The Zionist cause has been strengthened recently by renewed signs of American sympathy. Last spring, President Truman sent Immigration Commissioner Earl G. Harrison to Europe to investigate the condition of all displaced refugees. Harrison's report, made public a few weeks ago, revealed complete misery among the displaced Jews and few efforts to better their circumstances. President Truman followed it up with a strong recommendation to General Eisenhower to do something for Jewish refugees in his zone and another to the British government to open Palestine to them.

Although the Labor government of England has long been sympathetic to Zionist aspirations, it is reluctant to meet the Jewish demands at present. The Arab League is mobilized to prevent any change in existing Jewish immigration laws affecting Palestine and Britain fears that a change in its own policy would plunge the entire Middle East into bitter warfare. Thus far, the United States has not committed itself to active support of the Zionists in Palestine and the British feel that without such support they are not strong enough to challenge the Arabs. It is expected that ultimately the whole problem will be turned over to the United Nations Organization for settlement.

Correction

The October 1st issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER contained a map of Japan with an inset map comparing the United States and Japan in size. On the map of the United States, Atlanta appears in Alabama instead of in Georgia. Obviously this is an error, and we regret that it was made.



Edgar L. Warren
Seeks labor peace

ordinary day's work. And they suffer from cold, poor housing, and disease.

But the manpower shortage is only part of the problem. France is also handicapped in her reconstruction effort by lack of coal and transportation. Many mines were damaged in the course of the war; many more are operating slowly because of the labor shortage. Transportation, in its turn, is bogged down because of the lack of fuel. The railways are hindered further by lack of equipment. Transportation facilities are always prime military targets and many bridges, railroad yards, and locomotives were destroyed in the war.

Until these two key sections of the economy are back on their feet, French industry cannot be reconstructed.

S M I L E S

A Chinese had a toothache and phoned a dentist for an appointment.

"Two-thirty all right?" asked the dentist.

"Yes," replied the Chinese. "Tooth hurt, all right. What time do I come?"



"Alfred, when you are late returning from shore leave, a tardiness excuse from your mother will not suffice."

Jane: "Did your watch stop when it hit the floor?"

Jim: "Sure. Did you expect it to go right through?"

"I'd like to get a book—something deep if you have it," said the customer.

"Now, let's see," said the bookseller. "How about 'Twenty Miles Under the Sea'?"

★ ★ ★
"When I was twenty I made up my mind to be rich."

"But you never became wealthy."

"No. I discovered that it was easier to change my mind."

★ ★ ★
Manager: "Didn't you get my letter firing you?"

Boy: "Yes, sir. But on the letter it said 'Return in five days.'"

★ ★ ★

Lady of the House (instructing recently employed maid): "In the future, when the doorbell rings, I want you to answer it, Mary."

Mary: "It seems kind of silly, ma'am. Nine times out of ten it's for you."

Pronunciations

Nobuyuki Abe—noe-boe-yoo'kee ah'bee

Hokkaido—hoe-ki'doe—as in ice

Tadao Mishihiro—ta-dah'oe mee-shee-hee'roe

Pétain—pay'tan

Seoul—seh-ool

The French Election

(Concluded from page 1)

the Third Republic or adopt a new constitution. Under the old government there was a parliament consisting of two houses; the Chamber of Deputies, and the Senate. The members of the Chamber of Deputies were elected by the people and held office for four years. The senators were chosen for nine years, one-third of them retiring each third year. They were elected not by direct vote of the people, but by the members of the municipal councils of the communes of France, together with other local officials.

There was a president elected by the two houses of the parliament sitting together. The president was chosen

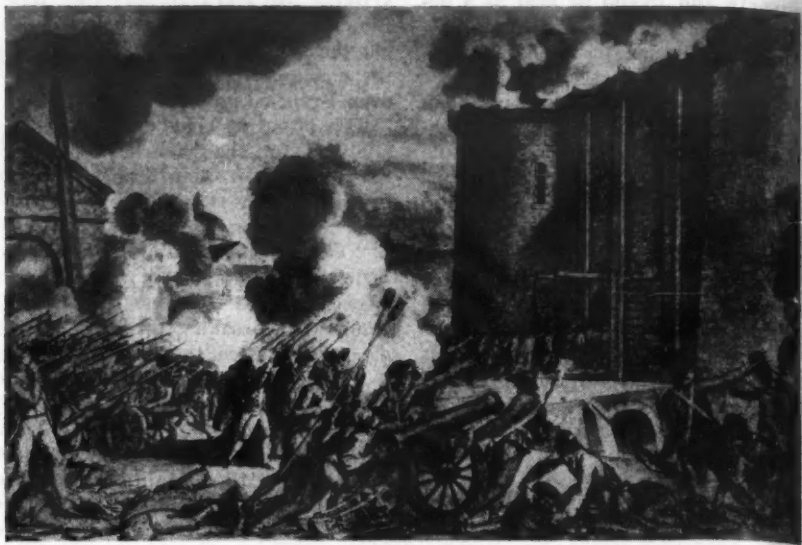
presidents each year it would be very confusing. No president would have a chance to try out his policies. Under such conditions, it would be very hard for us to solve any of our problems. The French, with their constantly changing cabinets, have that kind of trouble. They have not succeeded well in meeting the problems which have confronted the nation.

One reason why cabinets in France have been voted down so frequently and have been compelled to resign is that the French do not have strong political parties such as there are in the United States and in Great Britain. Instead of two great parties, they have many—frequently more than a dozen. These are not so much parties as they are factions or blocs. Seldom, if ever, does one of these factions or parties have behind it a majority of all the voters of France.

Since parliament is made up of many parties, the only way a premier can get a majority in parliament to enact laws which he proposes is to make a number of compromises. He appoints leaders not only of his own party but of some of the other groups to positions in the cabinet. These parties agree, for the time being, to work together. But after a while, the combination breaks up and the premier finds himself without a majority. Then he resigns, and the man who is selected in his place forms another combination of parties which lasts only for a little while.

The people of France know that their government does not work very well, but they are not agreed as to what should be done about it. Some of them think that they should have a new constitution and an entirely different kind of government. Many of them believe that they should give the president more power; should make him a strong executive like the president of the United States. Others oppose the establishment of a strong executive. They think that if the president were given great power he might become a dictator and that France might then lose her liberties.

It is thought in some quarters that the government should be made more like that of Great Britain; that the premier, if voted down in parliament, should be allowed to call a new parliamentary election instead of being obliged to resign. They think that this



HISTORIC DAY. The storming of the Bastille in Paris, on July 14, 1789, marked the beginning of the French Revolution and ushered in the First Republic. Frenchmen will determine next Sunday, in their national election, the nature of the Fourth Republic.

would force parliament to support the premier unless the members opposed him on a really big issue. They say that this change would give France a more stable government.

Another section of French opinion holds that a change in the form of government would do no good unless there were a change in the party system. They say that no premier can stay in office long until the French quit dividing into small groups or parties and form strong party systems such as those of the United States and England. They hold that the real trouble with the Frenchmen is that they are too individualistic and have not learned to compromise their differences and work together in large groups.

The French situation is rendered the more dangerous by the fact that really big issues confront the nation, and the disputes over these issues have been very bitter—so bitter as to threaten the country at times with civil strife. This was true even before the war. For years there have been sharp and dangerous disputes between the owners of industry and the employers of labor on the one side, and the workers on the other. During the 1930's these disputes grew to alarming proportions.

For several years after the First World War, the industrialists, the big businessmen, the bankers, and factory owners were in control of the government. The cabinets in those days belonged to parties which were conservative. They opposed socialism and what in America is called liberalism, and

stood for policies favoring the capitalist, or employing, class. These parties were known as "the Right."

Then, a few years before the Second World War, parties representing "the Left" came into power. These parties leaned toward socialism and favored the workers. They established a 48-hour week, increased the wages of laborers, and talked about placing some of the big industries in the hands of the government.

The wealthy classes then became both alarmed and revengeful. They quit investing their money in French industries and sent it instead to Britain, the United States, and other countries. The result was that there was not enough money to expand factories and to keep them going at full speed. Production fell off and there was widespread unemployment.

Bitter Conflict

The contest between the parties of the Left and the Right became bitter and dangerous. There was talk of revolution and the nation itself was weakened. This was one of the reasons why France was unable to offer solid resistance to the Germans.

This contest between the Right and the Left is now being resumed in France. This is one of the issues in next week's election. Will France go toward the Left, as Great Britain has done? Will the parties representing the workers and the poorer classes gain control? Will big industries be taken over by the government? Will the government engage in planning? Will it control production? Will it go in the direction of socialism? Or, on the other hand, will the forces on the Right prevail?

The entire world will watch the coming national election to see if this trend will continue on a nation-wide basis. The decisions the French make on this vital issue will have an effect beyond the borders of their own country. A number of the smaller nations of Europe are likely to follow the lead of France. Hence the election of next Sunday may serve as a weathervane for the political climate of the rest of Europe, especially for the countries of western Europe.

The election will be held at one of the most critical periods of French history. The nation is only now beginning to cope with the difficult problems of reconstruction. The election may determine whether the people hope to solve these problems by a return to the old method or by embarking upon new experiments.



General Charles de Gaulle

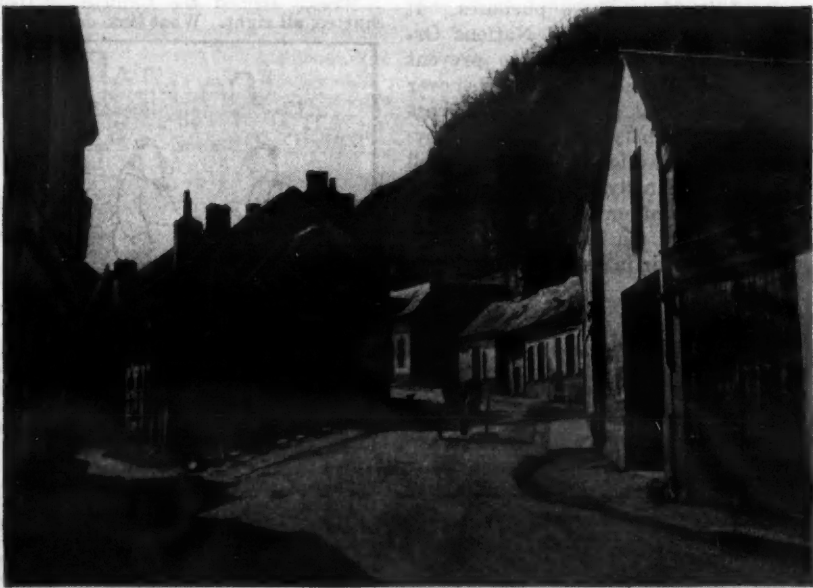
for a term of seven years. He was not a powerful official like our president, however. He was more like the king of England—merely a figurehead, exercising little real authority.

The most influential official in France was the premier, who stood at the head of a cabinet appointed by himself. The premier and his cabinet mapped out the legislation which should be enacted, and recommended this program to the two houses of parliament.

The cabinet, however, was responsible to parliament. The premier and his ministers could not do anything which the parliament did not approve. If either house turned against the premier and voted down an important measure which he recommended, he was obliged to resign. The president then appointed another man to the premiership—a man who, in his opinion, could obtain the support of a majority of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

This plan of government was similar to that which the English have, except that in England if a prime minister and his cabinet are voted down in the House of Commons, they need not resign. The prime minister may, instead, dissolve the House of Commons and call for a new election. He does this in the hope that the members who are elected to the new House of Commons will support him. If he wins the election he remains in office.

In practice, the French government has not operated very smoothly. It has not been a stable government. There have been too many changes of cabinets. As a matter of fact, the average life of a cabinet is only about a year. To see how unsatisfactory this would be, we have but to imagine that administrations in the United States changed every year. If we changed



The people of the rural areas and small towns of France will have a powerful voice in determining France's future

Occupied Korea Strives for Independence

AUGUST 15 was a day of wild celebration for the people of Korea. Japan's surrender had dethroned the foreign overlord who had dominated them for nearly half a century. Liberated at last, they looked forward to the realization of the dearest dream—a government of their own.

But it was not long before Korean shouts of joy gave way to cries of protest. With the arrival of occupation troops, the Koreans saw that liberation might mean something different from what they had imagined. Their country was divided into two occupation zones, the northern half going to the Russians, the southern half to the Americans. General John R. Hodge, head of the American occupation forces, inaugurated his administration by announcing that the old Japanese authorities would be permitted to keep their jobs. And he allowed Japanese troops to keep weapons as protection against the native populations.

Dissatisfaction

This turn of events was sharply disillusioning to the Koreans. Demonstrations of protest broke out. Posters appeared on public buildings, demanding the immediate ouster of the Japanese. Korean leaders sent urgent appeals to the Allied governments.

Since then American policy has been modified and some Japanese administrators have been removed. But the Korean people are still deeply dissatisfied. They are disturbed by the fact that more than 600,000 Japanese may be retained in key government and industry positions for some time. And they fear that division of their country will disrupt their economic life and stand in the way of their hopes for a unified native government. The two occupation sections are interdependent economically, the north being primarily industrial and the south agricultural.

Long-frustrated national pride and a firm belief that the Cairo Declaration promised them immediate independence are blended in the Korean people's discontent. But probably the sharpest goad to their fury at Allied policies is hatred of the Japanese.

The Japanese dominated Korea for 40 years, owning the country outright for 35. Throughout, their control was marked by the most brutal oppression. Not only were the Koreans denied any semblance of self-government; they were denied even the right to national identity. Under Japanese rule, they were forbidden to use their own language in business dealings, in schools, in private gatherings. Their history could not be taught. They were forced to abandon Confucianism and pay homage at Japanese Shinto shrines.



Although the Americans received a hearty welcome when they arrived in Korea, disappointment is widespread that independence for the Koreans may be delayed

And the Japanese ruthlessly hunted down those they believed guilty of "thought crime," which really meant any independent thought at all. It was the announced Japanese policy that Koreans should be taught "to follow, not to know."

Economically, Japanese rule was equally hard on the Koreans. The resources of their country, which is about the size of Kansas and rich in minerals, timber, and farm products, were drained for Japanese use. Although the Koreans grow large quantities of exceptionally fine rice, Japanese requisitioning kept them on the brink of starvation. Among the rural population, which constitutes 70 per cent of Korea's people, 80 per cent were deprived of their land and forced to live the slave life of tenant farmers. In the cities, Japanese workers were paid an average of 40 per cent more than Koreans doing similar jobs. All over the country, Koreans were excluded from well-paying or executive posts.

This treatment, hard on any people, but almost intolerable to a nation with 4,000 years of fruitful history behind it, drove the Koreans to desperate revolt in 1919. Superior Japanese strength put down the uprising inside Korea. But members of the independence movement formed a provisional government under the leadership of Dr. Syngman Rhee and fled to China.

Besides the exile government, thousands of Korean patriots took refuge outside the country. The largest number—some 300,000—went to Siberia, where they subsequently organized under Kim Kun and Park Hoon, two Korean leftists. Another 100,000 followed the Rhee government to China. With the coming of World War II, they united under the presidency of Kim Koo and established themselves in Chungking.

These groups have devoted themselves to resistance to Japan for 26

years. The Koreans in Siberia formed a 30,000-man Red Army unit in preparation for the day when they might help to deliver their homeland from its conquerors. Those in China joined with Chinese forces when the fight against Japan began. The exile government continued to plead Korea's case in the major capitals of the world.

Although the lot of the exiles was a hard one, those who stayed in Korea faced a still harder fate. After the uprising of 1919, Japan redoubled her brutality to the people of Korea. Thousands were arrested and tortured and, within the space of four months, 11,000 people were flogged. But the Koreans continued to dream of independence and to resist Japanese domination. Prevented by lack of weapons from defying Japan openly, they carried on their efforts in secret, sabotaging the enemy wherever possible.

How They Feel

This record of devotion to freedom is one reason why the Koreans feel they should be given immediate independence. They feel too that their sufferings under Japan have earned them the right to their liberty. As a final justification for their demand, they cite the promise of the big powers, made at Cairo, that they will be given their independence. But what about the other side of the picture?

General Hodge defended his original policy on these grounds. He said that his first obligation was to maintain order in Korea and that an immediate switchover to inexperienced Korean administrators would accomplish the very opposite. Although the Russians had successfully used native administrators in their zone, Hodge pronounced such Koreans as he had seen in official positions unreliable and inefficient whereas, according to his claim, the Japanese were competent and cooperative.

Although the United States has

since pledged that Japanese officials will be replaced as quickly as possible, this difficulty is still important. To some extent, the long years of subservience have prevented the Koreans from developing the skills they will need to govern themselves. Rigidly barred from the upper levels of both government and industry, they had no opportunity to acquire experience in these fields.

In order to prevent Korea from falling into chaos, military government officials feel that they must turn the country over to its people gradually. The present practice is to have Koreans understudy Japanese or American officials until they have thoroughly familiarized themselves with the work to be done and can then do it.

Another justification which has been given for our slowness in recognizing Korean claims is the large number of groups demanding representation in a provisional government. In the American zone alone, there are more than 30 political or semi-political parties. None has had experience in government or has ever been endorsed by the people in a free election. Even the so-called exile government of Kim Koo has no legal status. It assumed power in a revolution and never actually governed.

Refusing to recognize the Kim Koo regime, General Hodge has been consulting with representatives of 12 of the biggest political parties. They are being invited to advise the American military government. Eventually, numbers of them may be included in a coalition to rule Korea until free elections are held.

As for the other great source of Korean discontent—the two-zone system—adjustment must wait for future inter-Allied decisions. A central commission of Russian and American representatives may, however, be set up to coordinate the affairs of the two sections.



Korea

Contribution of OSS to Victory

ALL through the war the people of the United States stood squarely behind their regular Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. They were sure there were no better-trained, better-equipped fighting forces in the world than their boys. At the same time, adventure-loving Americans thrilled at the stories of the hair-raising exploits of the European underground, the bravery of the French Maquis, and the constant harassing of the enemy by guerrillas and partisans in conquered territory.

Now that the war is over, we are discovering that the United States had a part in the drama of undercover warfare as well as in the regular fighting. Since military secrecy is no longer of primary importance, news is being released of the secret army of volunteers which grew to include several thousand soldiers, sailors, marines, civilians, and foreign nationals. The story of this force of secret agents is only a part of the record built up by the Office of Strategic Services, our central organization for intelligence work during the war.

Some Mysteries Remain

Some of the exploits of the teams which operated behind enemy lines will never be known because the methods they employed are still useful to us but must be kept secret to remain so. Other incidents will never be known because the operatives who participated in them and might have reported them are dead, caught and shot by the Gestapo or the Japanese. But gradually the OSS has permitted the release of stories which make us proud of the courage and resourcefulness of the Americans who volunteered for "hazardous duty behind the enemy lines."

The Office of Strategic Services was our government's first attempt at setting up a single coordinated agency for gathering information about other nations and their interests and activi-

ties which might be of concern to us. The War Department had its intelligence branch, known as G-2, but it had never been given much encouragement by the authorities. There was, of course, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which had won a fine reputation, but it operated only inside the United States. The State Department before the war was notably weak in the intelligence-gathering field. Our government was probably as poorly informed about what was going on beneath the surface in other nations as a major power could possibly be in this age of rapid communications and international exchange.

When war broke out in Europe the United States became acutely aware of its unpreparedness and the possible consequences of it. In a helter-skelter fashion agencies began to spring up in Washington, hopefully trying to fill some of the gaps which had been left because of our determination to see no possibility but peace in our time. One of these was the Office of the Coordinator of Information, presided over by "Wild Bill" Donovan, now a major general, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor in the First World War as leader of the famous "Fighting Sixty-Ninth." Between wars he had been head of a prominent New York law firm, and had served the government from time to time on special assignments.

Donovan started work in July 1941 with the limited civilian personnel at his disposal to collect political and military information important to maintenance of the security of the United States. He also carried on psychological warfare by directing the dissemination of our propaganda to foreign nations. Several other pre-war agencies were doing somewhat similar work and confusion was the order of the day until early in 1942 when President Roosevelt decided to make Donovan head of an effective military organization under the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From that time on, OSS and its operations were under the strictest military secrecy. Many members of the staff did not know what activities were carried on outside their own departments. Wives and families of OSS volunteers were never informed of their secret missions which were carried out.

Varied Duties Performed

The major responsibilities handed over to OSS were fourfold. First, to discover the enemy's plans. Second, to discover the enemy's ability to carry out his plans, his strength. Third, to destroy the enemy's will to resist by whatever means possible, and fourth, to destroy the enemy's ability to resist by attacking him from within.

In order to accomplish these goals, the work of the organization was divided into two sections. The first was known as R and A, or research and analysis. The second and more spectacular section was known as field operations. Most of what were frequently called "the cloak and dagger boys" were in the field, but the work done by the research and analysis section made possible many of the daring exploits of the operatives behind enemy lines. Moreover, the careful, painstaking methods of securing personnel, testing and training men and women once they were selected, examining reports, coordinating informa-



One of the principal duties of the Office of Strategic Services was to establish contact with the underground forces of the occupied countries. Here are members of the French underground who played such an important role in the liberation of their country.

tion, and seeking out the missing links which frequently meant the difference between success and failure—all this was what made the Office of Strategic Services one of the best secret intelligence organizations in the world.

Activities carried out in the field consisted of sabotage, known as SO, or secret operations, aid to resistance groups, known as OG or operational groups, and assistance in helping escaped prisoners of war and Allied flyers who had landed in enemy-controlled territory to safety. All projects designed to weaken the enemy's will to fight came under MO, or morale operations.

This "black warfare" was carried on in every theater of operations in which our armies fought. The list of countries where our secret army claimed its own special victories or worked in secrecy included France, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Holland, North Africa, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Burma, Siam, China, and French Indo-China. Besides the stores of information it obtained, it delivered over 27,000 tons of food, clothing, and weapons worth many millions of dollars to the various underground armies.

One of the early operations undertaken by an OSS volunteer group was that known as "Torch." Colonel William A. Eddy, a Marine officer who had proved his heroism in the First World War, commanded a group of 15 men who went into North Africa months before our Allied landings there and paved the way for the invasion. They established and operated five secret radio stations over which was transmitted much of the detailed information upon the basis of which the invasion was planned. They served as a link between the outside Allies and the pro-Allied French leaders in North Africa. Besides selecting native personnel to assist in the actual invasion, they planted a cover story to the effect that the landing was to be at Dakar, thus diverting the German submarines and the entire Vichy French air force far from the scene of the landings.

Another group which worked behind the enemy lines to assist an invasion force was the secret international unit known by the code name,

"Jedburgs." In the group were American, British, French, and Belgian soldiers and officers. There were 33 teams in all, each consisting of an American or British officer, one officer from one of the other Allied nations, and an American or British wireless operator. Having chosen their own partners, these men were trained in wireless, demolitions, small arms, and guerrilla fighting. They were then parachuted into France, Belgium, and Holland before and after D-Day to organize and arm the resistance forces where necessary and to provide liaison between the underground armies and the Allied High Command.

Secret Fleets Assist

Food, equipment, and even fuel oil and explosives were supplied to the Yugoslav partisans and to the Greek resistance forces by the clandestine shipping service carried out by the OSS, sometimes in cooperation with native boat owners, sometimes alone. Similar fleets operated into Norway, and many tons of supplies went into Thailand and Burma by means of submarines and Catalina flying boats.

Both personnel and supplies were most frequently parachuted into Burma and Thailand, and in China, where OSS worked with Chiang Kai-shek's guerrillas, OSS paratroopers trained and led the Chinese commandos who were credited with disrupting Japanese communications in conjunction with Russia's attack in Manchuria.

Today the organization which functioned so effectively throughout the war has been ordered to disband. Its duties have been taken over in part by a body called the Interim Research and Intelligence Service which will be a part of the State Department until January 1, 1946. The director of the interim organization will be Col. Alfred McCormack, another New York attorney, who was formerly head of the Army Intelligence Service, but who will now be made a special assistant to the Secretary of State in charge of research and intelligence. Supposedly there will be an effort to coordinate all the intelligence activities which have been carried on by various branches of the government, so far as possible.



OBI PHOTO

Many OSS agents parachuted into territory occupied by the enemy